

June 5, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Certification

Sonoma Coast State Beach Trail Rehabilitation, Facilities Improvement, and Environmental Restoration, Jenner,

Sonoma County

On April 24, 2002 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Cheryl Ware on behalf of the California Department of Parks and Recreation requesting Water Quality Certification pursuant to administrative regulations and the Clean Water Act Section 401 (401 Certification).

The application proposed several related actions to improve signage, pedestrian and wheelchair access to trails, restroom facilities, and reduce impacts of visitors to environmentally sensitive areas at Sonoma Coast State Beach at 12800 Highway 1 near the town of Jenner in Sonoma County, California (Assessor's Parcel Nos. 099-040-02, -04, 099-050-06, -07, -08, 099-060-01, -02, 101-040-03, 101-110-04, 101-130-01, -07, 101-150-01, -28, -29, -31, -32, and 101-193-01). As proposed, the project will result in the fill of 0.021 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. The project proposal includes addition of signage to approximately 3.5 miles of existing trail, addition of three paved trailhead information areas, mowing to create approximately 3,000 feet of new trail, addition of 60- and 30-foot pedestrian bridges, replacement of three existing vault toilets, construction of wheelchair access to one restroom, construction of approximately 1,200 feet of boardwalk along existing trails, surfacing approximately 1,000 feet of existing trail for wheelchair access, closure of 10,000 square feet of existing trail, and rehabilitation of three existing beach access ways of approximately 850 feet. Proposed construction activities are as follows:

- **Goat Rock Beach information area** - approximately 200 sq. ft of decomposed granite will be added for stabilization. In addition, two interpretive wood panels will be installed.
- **Blind Beach information area** - 3,000 feet will be mowed to provide access adjacent to Goat Rock Road. Where eroded areas or wetlands exist, pedestrians will be redirected onto the road for some distance.
- **Blind Beach restroom** - the existing concrete block vault restroom will be demolished and replaced by a wood-sided facility. The service road to the restroom will be regraded and a compacted aggregate base will be installed to provide access for handicapped visitors.
- **North Boardwalk** - proposed boardwalk will extend 752 feet through wetlands, through which there is currently a trail. The proposed North Boardwalk will be approximately 4 feet wide and elevated approximately 16 inches above ground level. Footing spoils will be used to fill in degraded trails in the project area.

- **Drainage #2 Boardwalk** - proposed boardwalk will extend 412 feet, replacing a current trail through wetlands. The proposed Drainage #2 Boardwalk will be approximately 4 feet wide and elevated 16 inches above the ground. A proposed 3-foot wide mowed trail of approximately 120 feet in length will connect the boardwalk to existing trails and redirect visitors away from the existing degraded wetlands trail, which will be revegetated.
- **Handicapped-accessible (ADA) trail** – a pine pitch based liquid stabilizer blended into decomposed granite and compacted will be utilized in the construction of a 48-inch wide trail, approximately 1,000 feet in length. The proposed trail will extend from the Shell Beach parking lot to the bluff.
- **Shell Beach information area and ADA parking** – proposed installation of stabilized decomposed granite area of approximately 200 sq. ft. adjacent to north side of proposed ADA parking spaces and 2 interpretive wooden panels.
- **Drainage #5 (Furlong Gulch New Bridges)** – one proposed bridge will be wood or steel, approximately 60 feet long, and 5 feet wide, requiring concrete abutments. The other will be a boardwalk approximately 16 feet long, 4 feet wide, and supported by wood pilings. A 3-foot wide trail, approximately 70 feet in length, will be constructed to connect the two bridges to the beach. Footing spoils will be used to fill in degraded areas of existing trails.
- **Drainage #7 New Bridge** – the proposed bridge will be approximately 30 feet long, constructed using concrete abutments. Footing spoils will be used to fill in degraded areas of existing trails. A 200-foot temporary access road may be constructed from State Highway 1 through a eucalyptus grove, as an alternative to delivering materials to adjacent Grill Road or Wright's Beach Access Road, and then airlifting them to the project area by helicopter. No grading is proposed and materials will be removed from the site following project completion.
- **Wright's Beach Information Area** – a stabilized decomposed granite area of approximately 200 sq. ft. will be constructed adjacent to the Wright's Beach Access Road. Two wooden interpretive wooden panels will also be installed.
- **Duncan's Landing North** – a beach access trail from the parking lot to Wright's Beach will be rehabilitated. Severely entrenched trail sections will be filled using footing spoils from bridge construction in other areas of the project site and the trail tread will be rehabilitated.
- **Duncan's Landing South** – a beach access trail from a parking lot along State Highway 1 to Duncan's cove and the trail tread will be rehabilitated. Switchbacks will be regraded and footing spoils from bridge repair will be used to fill the trail if necessary.

- **Portugese Beach Restroom** – the existing concrete block vault restroom will be demolished and replaced with a wood-sided restroom. All contaminated debris will be disposed in accordance with restrictions on biohazardous materials disposal.
- **Schoolhouse Beach Restroom** – the existing concrete block vault restroom will be demolished and replaced with a wood-sided facility. All contaminated debris will be disposed of in accordance with restrictions on biohazardous materials disposal.
- **Miwok Beach** – a beach access trail from a parking lot along State Highway 1 to Miwok Beach will be rehabilitated. Asphalt paving will be removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner. Wood retaining walls and steps will be repaired, and a failed culvert will be replaced with a small bridge. Switchbacks will be regraded and trail tread will be rehabilitated. Fill from footing spoils of bridge construction will be used if necessary.

Mitigation for impacts to waters of the United States has been proposed in the form of on-site wetland restoration at a 2:1 ratio to mitigate for fill of wetlands, and a 1:1 ratio for impacts to shading of wetlands. In addition, proposed mitigation is in the form of erosion control measures and monitoring for natural recolonization of the site by native plants. If adequate recolonization does not occur naturally, park staff will manually plant and weed the mitigation area. Monitoring is proposed to take place over five years, with annual reports submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Regional Water Board.

Proposed restroom construction will occur between September 1, 2002 and June 30, 2004. Proposed bridge abutments and boardwalks will be constructed in 2003 or 2004 on or after April 15, but not after October 15.

The applicant has applied for a permit from the Corps, pursuant to Clean Water Act, Section 404 (Corps File No. 25679N). In addition, the applicant has complied with the California Environmental Quality Act by obtaining a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Notice of Determination No. 2001062029, September 7, 2001). Finally, the applicant has applied for a 1601 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game.

At this point, staff at the Regional Water Board is in the process of reviewing the project application and addressing the decision regarding issuance of a Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements and 401 Certification. Public comments will be accepted and considered during a 21-day period that begins on the first day of posting of this notice on the Regional Water Board web site: www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1. Please contact intern Jill Montgomery by phone at (707) 543-7148 or e-mail montj@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov with questions or comments regarding the proposed project.